

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims of the subject application by adding claims 23 to 26 as follows:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An individually packaged, highly compact and portable absorbent article comprising:

a single absorbent article that is compressible and reconfigurable from a normal condition to a compressed condition; and

a packaging for retaining said absorbent article in said compressed condition;

said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition;

said absorbent article occupying a volume of space that is reduced by at least about 30% when said absorbent article is reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition; and

said packaging for retaining said single absorbent article when said article is in said compressed condition, thereby yielding an individually packaged compact and portable absorbent article.

2. and 3. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said packaging is configured to retain at negative pressure said compressed absorbent article.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by negative pressure.

6. to 8. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is a diaper.

10. to 15. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for packaging an absorbent article to yield a single individually packaged absorbent article is compact and portable, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a packaging;

providing a single absorbent article, the absorbent article occupying a volume of space in three dimensions;

reconfiguring the absorbent article such that the volume of space is reduced by at least 30%;

retaining the absorbent article when reconfigured within said packaging, thereby yielding an individually packaged compact and portable absorbent article.

17. and 18. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

19. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said retaining step comprises the step of:

packaging the reconfigured absorbent article at negative pressure.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said providing step comprises the step of providing a disposable diaper.

21. and 22. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

23. (NEW) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is reconfigured by rolling.

24. (NEW) An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is reconfigured by folding.

25. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step includes rolling the absorbent article.

26. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step includes folding the absorbent article.